



News Release

Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

Michael B. Abrams
Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility
3580 Morrisville Road
Anniston, AL 36201
(256) 238-1652, Ext. 235

Donavan A. Mager
Westinghouse Anniston
3580 Morrisville Road
Anniston, AL 36201
(256) 238-0721, Ext. 137

For Immediate Release

WORKERS PREPARE TO PROCESS FIRST “LEAKER”

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, Ala., February 24, 2004 (5:45 p.m.) – Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) workers will begin processing the first “leaking” M55 GB rocket later today.

Since 1982, Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) employees have found and isolated 778 GB rocket leakers. The vast majority of the leakers have simply involved minute amounts of vapor that pose no danger to the community. The procedure ANCA personnel use to handle leakers has been effective in ensuring there is no impact to the community or to depot workers.

ANCDF employees have a different procedure they will use to process and destroy any rocket, or rockets, that account for an agent reading in an Enhanced On-Site Container (EONC).

Weapons are delivered from storage igloos to the ANCDF in sealed EONCs. Since the delivery of the first EONC to the ANCDF on August 8, 2003, more than 660 EONC shipments have safely moved nearly 20,000 M55 rockets to the facility.

ANCDF standing operating procedures call for employees to use chemical agent monitoring equipment to ensure the EONCs are agent-free before the containers are opened. A very low level reading was detected today. Today’s reading, which was taken inside the ANCDF second floor Unpack Area, identified the first EONC with a chemical agent reading inside the sealed container.

The Unpack Area is under engineering controls. The EONC does not pose a threat to the workers or to the community.

(More)

Page 2 – ANCDF News Release – February 24, 2004
WORKERS PREPARE TO PROCESS FIRST “LEAKER”

ANCDF workers have in place a procedure to handle EONCs with a chemical agent reading. Dressed in a higher level of safety equipment, workers will open the EONC and move the two pallets of rockets into the Explosion Containment Vestibule. From behind sealed doors, the workers will then carefully place each rocket, one at a time, onto a conveyor that will be used to move it into the Explosion Containment Room (ECR). In the ECR the rocket will be cut into eight pieces. The rocket pieces will then be sent to the Deactivation Furnace.

This process will permanently and safely eliminate these and, eventually, all leaking munitions from ANCA storage.

Timothy K. Garrett, ANCDF site project manager, said, “I want to assure everyone that today’s ANCDF mission involving an M55 ‘leaker’ was something we practiced and we were prepared to safely handle.

“Considering the fact that Anniston Chemical Activity employees have had to deal with hundreds of rocket leakers over the years, this is something we anticipated, practiced for and will safely handle.”

Garrett also said, “Everyone should be proud of the way the ANCDF work force handled our first ‘leaker.’ We have a well-trained and professional team,” he said.

As of midnight Monday, the ANCDF team has safely processed 18,636 M55 GB rockets and 20,799 gallons of GB.

--- 30 ---

Questions?: Please call:

Michael B. Abrams, ANCDF PAO, at 256-238-1652, Ext. 235 (Cell – 256-453-3840)

Donavan A. Mager, WA PAO, at 256-238-0721, Ext. 137

Charles F. Steele, Jr., Outreach Office Manager, at 256-238-0120

ANCDF: Leading the Way to a Safer Future
CMA: Making Chemical Weapons History